



Northern Iraq

Iraqis earn medals for bravery

1st AD recognizes
IPS, FPS officers
for sacrifice, valor

Story and photo by
Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
372nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

BAGHDAD — Many Iraqi Police Service officers and Facility Protection Service officers were honored by commanders of the 1st Armored Division and a representative of the Ministry of the Interior Oct. 29 and 30 at the Iraqi Forum (Baghdad Convention Center).

The ceremony recognized those civil servants whose service went beyond the call of duty in the defense of their nation.

Twenty-one awards were presented to IPS and FPS officers who had either exhibited valor or were wounded. Awards for officers who died in the line of duty were presented to family members.

The ceremony for police officers was held Oct. 29 and the ceremony for facility protection officers was held Oct. 30.

The two ceremonies included remarks by Brig. Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armored Division (speaking at the IPS ceremony); Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, assistant division commander for maneuver, 1st Armored Division; and Imin Ibraheim, deputy minister of the interior.



Iraqi Facility Protection Service officers receive awards at the Iraqi Convention Center in Baghdad for their heroic efforts from Brig. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, assistant division commander for maneuver, 1st Armored Division.

Speaking at the ceremony for police officers, Dempsey said, "These men have risked their lives for a noble cause. They have shown commitment, professionalism, and dedication. These individuals sitting here before me are proof that things are get-

ting better in Baghdad."

Maj. Lawrence Tubbs, action officer for the 1st Armored Division's attached civil affairs units,

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New transmitter airs broadcasts across Tikrit

By Spc. Samuel A. Soza
367th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

TIKRIT — While Iraq moves closer to becoming a sovereign nation, residents, once oppressed under Saddam Hussein, are finding new forms of expression. One of the newest forms is resonating across the airwaves.

With help from the 4th Infantry Division, the city of Tikrit will soon accommodate a new AM station, as well as an FM radio station, which also accommodates the city's only television station. As it turns out, the stations are providing a channel for free speech for city residents.

"When we first got here, the tower was the only thing in good shape," said Staff Sgt. Paul Robertson, detachment sergeant for the 362nd Psychological Operations Company, an Army Reserve unit from Fayetteville, Ark.

Robertson, 30, worked for many weeks with Abdul Karter, director of media for the stations, by obtaining funding for station improvements.

The 51-year-old director, a native of Samarra, described the FM/television site as "bombed and damaged" during the war, while the AM radio site was a single tower, with no buildings for a base of operations.

Wrecked offices were placed at the FM station, while new buildings

were erected at the AM site. Radio towers at both stations were fitted with new 1-kilowatt transmitters, and generators were purchased for both sites.

Still a work in progress, the stations' cost so far is about \$250,000. It is provided mainly through the Iraqi Media Network, Iraq's largest media employer, and 4th ID, according to Robertson.

The most difficult part about the project was obtaining the equipment needed.

"There's no Radioshack," Robertson said. "If a 2-cent fuse blows, it takes a few days to get a replacement. We've done a lot of hunting and scrounging."

The stations are being transformed from basic relay stations into facilities capable of producing and broadcasting their own programming, he said.

During Hussein's reign, all television and radio programming was broadcast from Baghdad and sent through the countless relay stations throughout Iraq.

"The Ministry of Information before had people that only guarded the stations and couldn't inject their own messages," Robertson said.

Karter, an electrical engineer by trade, was head of the technicians that built and maintained relay sites around the Salah Ad Din province.

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Civil Defense Corps soldier remembered for sacrifice

Story and photo by Spc. Blake Kent
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL — Soldiers of the 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and soldiers of Company B, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, held memorial services for Pfc. Borakat Hajee Ali of B Co., ICDC, after his death Oct. 23.

Ali was killed during a mounted patrol along the products pipeline near Qayyarah, when an anti-tank mine exploded under his vehicle.

"He was a great example of courage and bravery, and always eager to perform his duties," said Sgt. Farris Abdu Gabeer, B Co., ICDC, of Ali.

The mine is suspected to have been set by other Iraqis.

Seven other ICDC soldiers were injured during the incident. Six are still in a Mosul hospital receiving care. One has been released.

The ICDC company augments soldiers of the 327th Inf. Reg. in securing the two pipelines in the area, as well as the Tiger South Ammo Supply Point.



Pfc. Borakat Hajee Ali, Co. B, Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, was remembered for his valiant service during a memorial ceremony. He was killed in a mine attack on Oct. 23 during a mounted patrol.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets

Master Sgt. Robert Giancarlo, 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron, asks for a volunteer to help install the computers donated to the Al Amani School for Boys and Girls.

Computers upgrade classrooms, learning

By Senior Airman Lee Smith
506th Air Expeditionary Group

KIRKUK — A local Iraqi school received 12 computers Oct. 21 through the Commander's Emergency Response Program. The 12 are only part of 100 computers that are being donated.

Members of the 506th Expeditionary Communications Squadron traveled to the Al-Amani School for Boys and Girls to set up the computers in one of the classrooms.

Master Sgt. Robert Giancarlo, Tech. Sgt. Charlein Sheets, Airmen 1st Class Courtney Braddock, Ryan Andrews and Andrew Sun installed the computers and configured them in Arabic.

"It's a great feeling to see the look on these children's faces when we're here," Andrews said.

According to Army Sgt. 1st Class Edwin Gargas from the 2nd/503rd, the school was a learning place for one of their interpreters.

"We were doing a patrol in the area and Auaydo Muhammed, the first interpreter we had when we arrived, said he went to school here," Gargas said. "So, I stopped the patrol to take a look around. After looking at how bad a shape it was in, it was then that I decided to do something about it. The safe house we stay in is in the same area, and we

wanted to do as much as we could for a school in our patrol area."

Muhammed said the school is in much better shape than when he attended 20 years ago.

"I went to school here for the fifth and sixth grade," Muhammed said. "Back then, I remember everything was broken. Now, I talk to the people in the neighborhood and they say that at night when the lights are on, the school looks like a diamond."

According to Bushra Hadi, another interpreter for the Army, the computers will be used as another tool to help the children learn.

"At first, they will use it for typing," Hadi said. "Eventually, they would like to use them to get connected to the Internet."

In September, Air Force members from the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron installed plumbing and electricity to the Al-Amani School.

The school is used to teach children six through 15, similar to an elementary school in the states.

Formerly known as the Brigade Commanders' Discretionary Fund, the CERP is funded through seized Iraqi assets and gives Army brigade and division commanders the ability to reestablish and rebuild the social and material infrastructure in Iraq.

Contributions to the newspaper are welcome from servicemembers in northern Iraq.

**Submit stories to
cpiccmdinfo@baghdadforum.com.**

GI's secure facts on enemy's devices

Improvised explosive device awareness training made priority for soldiers, crucial for safety

By Spc. Blake Kent

22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL — With more than 415 wounded and 29 killed by Improvised Explosive Devices according to recent statistics, Coalition forces aren't taking any chances. They are preparing their soldiers with the needed awareness training.

"There are approximately 600,000 tons of ordnance out on the ground throughout the country," said Major Adam Boyd, 1138th Mine, Explosive, and Ordnance Information Coordination Center, "and the enemy is getting smarter every single day on how to use it."

Soldiers may encounter a number of different forms of IEDs, such as disguised static IEDs, disguised moveable IEDs, improvised

grenades, and IEDs placed in, on or under the target.

Attacks on vehicles are the most prevalent form of attack.

According to Staff Sgt. Jon Kibbler of St. Louis, Mo., 1138th MEOICC, the enemy is targeting vehicles at intersections and roundabouts, on and under bridges and overpasses, on verges and breaks in the median strips, when passing through defiles and on the open highways.

The enemy is also employing multiple IEDs in a daisy-chain fashion, targeting ground forces and fixed installations (including Vehicle Control Points). They also employ 'come on' tactics, which are items that attract personnel into the kill zone and secondary IEDs, Kibbler said.

According to Kibbler, complacency is one of the worst enemies

plaguing the coalition forces.

"It isn't the soldiers that are just coming into theater that are getting hurt," Kibbler said.

"It's the guys that have been here for a year that are getting complacent."

There are things soldiers can do to help make themselves less of a target for explosive devices, Kibbler said, and help prepare themselves for encounters with them.

Altering routes, times and commonly witnessed procedures can make it more difficult for the enemy to pick a target.

Soldiers should have clearly understood and well rehearsed "Actions On" procedures, and always be on the look out for suspicious activity and indicators of possible IEDs.

Soldiers should also be sure to

maintain regular communication between themselves.

When soldiers do come across an IED, they should confirm what they see, evacuate the area, secure the site and maintain control of the area until the Explosive Ordnance Disposal arrives.

Soldiers should also place a nine line EOD report, which will help inform the EOD team of the situation.

Kibbler warned soldiers to be at least 100 meters away from Unexploded Ordnance when transmitting over a radio as some explosive devices can be set off by radio frequencies, and by no means shoot at the IED.

"The two biggest things that are going to help you an IED situation is vigilance and communication," Kibbler said.

To find out more about IED awareness, soldiers call the MEOICC at 580-2820.

Kirkuk Airbase Chapel Schedule

Friday

5 a.m., 7 p.m. — Islamic prayer

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass (Sky Soldier chapel)

Saturday

7 p.m. — Catholic Mass

Sunday

8 a.m. — Gospel Service

9 a.m. — Catholic Mass

(Sky Soldier chapel)

10 a.m. — General Protestant

11:30 a.m. — Catholic Mass

1 p.m. — Latter-Day Saints

2 p.m. — Catholic Mass (Sky Soldiers Chapel)

7 p.m. — Protestant Service

Tuesday

6:30 p.m. — Growing as a Christian: Studying the Book of James

Wednesday

8 a.m. — The Bible in Light of Current History and Local Events

5:30 p.m. — Building Your Faith: Studying the Book of Hebrews

*All services are held at the Ten Days From Tomorrow Chapel unless otherwise noted. Times subject to change. Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist and others should contact chapel administration for updates of their religious requirements and support.

Coalition restores ancient ruins

Story and photo by Spc. Blake Kent

22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

MOSUL — A piece of history is made available again to the world in Al Hatra, Iraq, where ruins of a Hetron civilization have opened again to tourists and archeologists.

The ruins are from around 150 B.C., and collapsed in 241 A.D. The site is thought to have been an early religious center for the region.

Securing the ruins was a major concern for the Coalition forces as they came into Iraq in March.

"This was automatically a major priority to secure these ruins," said 1st Lt. Elijah Ward of Greenville, Va., 2nd Battalion, 320th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "To see these destroyed would be a major loss for the archeological community."

The ruins did see some looting though during the war.

"We started with safe-guarding the site, then our soldiers started giving the tours of the site," Ward said. "They learned as much about this site as the tour guides know."

The site is currently secured by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, and local tour guides have been hired to help with the site.

"The ruins have become cleaner and a better place to study the history of this region," said Col. Joseph Hodges, commander, 1st Brigade, 101st Abn. Div. (Air Assault.).

According to Dinkha, the site has been shut off from the archeological world for a number of years, but archeologists had studied the area starting about 190 years ago.



Now open for tours, the Al Hatra ruins offers visitors a view into the history of Iraq.

"During Saddam's time there was no tourism in the area," said Dinkha.

The site's curator is currently working on sparking interest from the world's archeological community.

"There were 171 towers, many are underground, and there were open alters for offerings to the king," said Dinkha of some of the known mysteries of the ruins waiting to be uncovered.

While interest in the site is still growing, the nearby village is preparing for the return of tourists.

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assisted in planning the ceremonies.

"This is a ceremony to honor those who displayed sacrifice or heroism in the line of duty," he said at the ceremony for the IPS officers. "Many IPS officers have been wounded or killed serving their country and protecting Iraqi people and facilities since the end of major fighting here in Iraq was over.

Many others acted heroically and have set fine examples for all their colleagues."

Tubbs said 124 awardees were honored during the IPS ceremony, including 24 medals for valor and 79 medals for sacrifice.

The FPS award ceremony on the following day recognized 24 awardees for valor and 21 for sacrifice.

"The actions of the honorees here today range from engaging threats and stopping suspect civilian vehicles, to pursuing local Iraqi criminals after they (the guards or policemen) themselves were wounded," Tubbs said.

"They have demonstrated actions that all Iraqi police can aspire to and are examples to us all," he said.

The awards given out were golden medals, each emblazoned with an imprinted map of the country of Iraq, with Arabic script reading, "It is an honor to serve country," Tubbs said.

Dempsey pinned an award on each

IPS officer honored, or, in the case of posthumous awards, presented an award to each family member, shaking each one's hand and thanking them for their service and sacrifice.

The following day, Scaparrotti presented awards at the ceremony for Facility Protection Service officers.

The nominations for the awards originated from the honorees' U.S. Army Military Police counterparts, who have been working closely with the IPS and FPS officers for the past several months.

"The sacrifices that these men made were made for all Iraq," said Ibraheim. "We will remember these, and the coalition soldiers with whom they serve, for the blood they have spilt is for all humanity."

The ceremony was very emotional for the family members of IPS or FPS officers who were killed in action.

Some family members, men and women, sobbed as they received the awards. One man wailed at length about the death of his relative, waving his finger to stress his pain and grief.

Dempsey, Scaparrotti, Ibraheim and others comforted and embraced several bereaved family members as they walked on stage to accept the medals.

This was the first ceremony of its kind in Iraq, said Tubbs.

Civil servants' meritorious service to their country will not go unnoticed or unrewarded, he said.

BROADCASTS

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Now, having taken up responsibility for the stations in Tikrit, Karter is learning concepts such as producing and getting advertising and also how to deal with reporters and other media.

He plans to work with IMN who will provide programming and allow him time to inject his own programs such as American-style movies, sports and, for the first time in Tikrit, local news.

"We will have interviews with officials, talk to local people about how they feel, if they have complaints," Karter said, speaking through an interpreter. Already, the number of Iraqis in Tikrit that have satellite TV has shot up to 80 percent since the beginning of the year when it was illegal.

"Why does Abdul do this when he could make more money working somewhere else?" asked Robertson. "He does it so that Iraq will have a free media."

Karter, even after receiving threats from former regime loyalists, realizes the need for Iraq to experience what is occurring in the rest of the world and to exercise their new opportunities.

"The life is coming for the new generation," he said.

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“Men sleep peacefully in their beds at night because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf. ”

—George Orwell

Shhh! Remember the enemy is listening. He wants to know what you know. Keep it to yourself.

Stressed?

Units can schedule group sessions with the 113th Medical Company (Combat Stress Control). These classes help decrease anxiety due to prolonged exposure of living and working in a combat zone.

For more information, call Lt. Cheri Waide at 914-360-3267.